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Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FOR CU-FWA/PAB; USIA FOR INA

E O 11652 N/A
TAGS: OEXC, BG
SUBJECT: IV GRANTEE SHAH MOAZZAM HOSSAIN

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSLATED TRANSCRIPTION OF BANGLADESH TV INTERVIEW AT 2040 DECEMBER 10 WITH SHAH MOAZM HOSSAIN, CHIEF WHIP OF BANGLADESH PARLIAMENT AND RECENTLY RETURNED IV GRANTEE:

2. A. AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WAS VERY UNFRIENDLY TOWARDS OUR LIBERATION WAR ALTHOUGH WE RECEIVED MUCH HELP FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE INTELLIGENTSIA. WHAT EXPERIENCES HAVE YOU GAINED DURING YOUR RECENT U.S. VISIT?

3. A. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOT ONLY DID NOTHING TO EXTEND ANY HELP TO OUR LIBERATION WAR BUT ON THE CONTRARY THEY HELPED THE OCCUPATION ARMY OF PAKISTAN BY SUPPLYING ARMS TO THEM AGAINST BANGLADESH. HOWEVER THEY GRADUALLY CHANGED THEIR POLICY, RECOGNIZED BANGLADESH, AND ACCEPTED BANGLADESH'S ENTITY. AFTER THE INDEPENDENCE OF BANGLADESHFWO UNITAT STATES CAME FORWARD TO HELP BANGLADESH WITH RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROJECTS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS I CAN TELL YOU TOPPED THE LIST OF TOTAL GRANTS

RECEIVED FROM ALL OTHER COUNTRIES PUT TOGETHER. OF COURSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE CONSISTENTLY QUITE SYMPATHLIC TO OUR CAUSE.
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THEY EVEN RAISED FUNDS AND PROVIDED ASSISTANCSXFOR BANGLADESH'S LIB-

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RATION WAR. AMERICAN PEOPLE, EDUCATORS, STUDENTS, SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN -- THEY ALL SUPPORTED OUR LIBERATION STRUGGLE. IN FACT, THIS PRESSURE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION LED TO A GRADUAL CHANGE OF AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS BANGLADESH. EVERYWHERE I VISITED I FOUND SYMPATHY AND GOOD WISHES FOR THE PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY OF OUR COUNTRY. I ALSO OBSERVED A NEW SENSE OF AWARENESS IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ABOUT BANGLADESH.

4. Q. WHAT IS THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ABOUT THE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT?

5. A.THEY WANT STABLE PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT AND THEY BELIEVE THAT THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH MUTUAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH. NOWADAYS THEY FEEL VERY STRONGLY ABOUT PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS. I THINK THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING EMPLOYING THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO HELP BRING ABOUT A STABLE PEACE -- THIS IS MY IMPRESSION. THEY ALSO WELCOMED THE DELHI AGREEMENT AND GARD IT AS A STEP FORWARD TO PEACE. THEY BELIEVE THAT PAKISTAN WILL SHORTLY RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH AND THEN TRY TO RESOLVE ALL OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS BASED ON RESPECT FOR MUTUAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

6. Q. WHO ARE THE PROMINENT LEADERS YOU MET IN THE U.S. ?

7.A. I MET WITH SENATORS KENNEDY, SAXBE, AND MCGOVERN, THE DEPUTY CHIEF WHIP, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, STATE SENATORS, STAJ DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND MANY OTHERS FROM VARIOUS WALKS OF LIFE, ALL OF WHOM I CANNOT RECOLLECT NOW. I PRESENTED BANGLADESH'S POINT OF VIEW TO THEM AND FOUND IN THEM ALL AN EAGERNEFQ TO HELP REHABILITATE BANGLADESH'S WAR-RAVAGED ECONONC.

8. Q. SENATOR KENNEDY VISITED BANGALEE REFUGEE CAMPS IN INDIA AND TRIED TO VISIT OCCUPATION TERRITORIES IN BANGLADESH BUT HE WAS NOT ALLOWED BY PAKISTANI REGIME. DID YOU HAVE ANY DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT WHEN YOU MET WITH HIM?

9. A. OH YES, I TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT THAT. I HAD TALKS NOT ONLY WITH KENNEDY BUT ALSO WITH SAXBE, MCGOVERN, HAMILTON AND
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MANY OTHERS. I HAD VERY CORDIAL AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AND FOUND ALL TO BE VERY FRIENDLY.

10. Q. WHAT IS THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE REGARDING BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN POLICY AND OUR FOUR FUNDAMENTAL STATE PRINCIPLES?
11. A. THE FOREIGN POLICY OF A NATION IS QUIDED BY ITS OWN SELF-INTERESTS. OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS FRIENDSHIP TO ALL. I THINK THAT OZAMERICANS APPRECIATE OUR FOREIGN POLICY AS THEY KNOW WE WANT

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FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND CERTAINLY INCLUDING THE UNITED
STATES. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO IMPRESS UPON THE WORLD THAT AS
A NEW NATION WE STAND FOR PEACE -- PEACE IN ALL INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS. OUR PEACE MOVES SO ELOQUENTLY PRESENTED BY OUR GREAT
LEADER SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN HAVE EARNED WORLD-WIDE PRAISE.

12. Q. HAVE YOU FOUND ANY EAGERNESS IN THE U.S. FOR
RECONSTRUCTING OUR WAR-RAVAGED ECONOMY?

13. A. ACTUALLY I DID NOT GO FOR HELP, YOU SEE, BUT STILL I FOUND
THAT AMERICANS WANTED TO KNOW WHAT KIND OF ASSISTANCE WE NEEDED.
I TRIED TO IMPRESS UPON THEM THAT WE ARE NOT BEGGING BUT SEEKING
HELP FROM FRIENDS TO ENABLE US TO STAND ON OUR OWN FEET. I FOUND
A SYMPATHETIC AALRENESS IN THEM OF OUR NEED FOR HELP IN REBUILDING
OUR WAR- TORN
ECONOMY. AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY IT IS THEIR MORAL
RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP US. I BELIEVE THEY REALIZE. THIS.
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